#4
MOONSTONE
$3.50
THE PHANTOM
Ben Raab
Nick Derington
FBScan

THE PHANTOM

created by LEE FALK

"CURSE OF THE PHANTOM"

PART TWO OF TWO

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
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FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A STRANGER FROM A FARAWAY LAND CAME TO OUR VILLAGE AND DESTROYED OUR PEOPLE.
THIS MAN WAS A LIAR... A THIEF...
WHAT DID HE STEAL, FATHER? PRICELESS TREASURE?
TREASURE? NO. PRICELESS? BEYOND MEASURE. WHAT THIS MAN TOOK FROM US COULD NEVER BE REPLACED.
HE STOLE OUR IDENTITY.
SINCE THAT FATEFUL NIGHT, IT HAS BEEN OUR FAMILY'S SACRED DUTY TO RECLAIM WHAT WAS LOST AND AVENGE OUR TRIBE.
THIS HONOR HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. AS MY FATHER DID BEFORE ME... AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM-
-I NOW PASS THAT HONOR TO YOU, SON.
THE FUTURE OF THE WASAKA IS IN YOUR HANDS.
BY THE POWER OF KUA THE UNDYING-
TSSSSS

"-YOU MUST DESTROY THE PHANTOM!"

ONE GOOD THING ABOUT JUNGLE MUD...
...IT LEAVES AN IMPRESSION.
ONLY ONE DEEP WOODS TRIBE HAS FEET THIS BIG.
THE WASAKA.
CENTURIES HAVE PASSED SINCE THEY DISAPPEARED INTO THE JUNGLE. TONIGHT I ENCOUNTERED TWO.
IF THEY'RE SELLING THEIR ANCIENT TRIBAL POTIONS FOR PROFIT, THERE MUST BE MORE TO THIS THAN SIMPLE REVENGE.
I HAVE TO FIND THEM.
STAY, HERO.
IF I'M NOT BACK IN TEN MINUTES, GO GET -
-HELP...?

WAP WOK
WOP THAK
SURE, I HAVE EVERYTHING A WOMAN COULD WANT.
THAP
WOP
AK
SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN WORLD POLITICS... TWO AMAZING CHILDREN...
...AND A HUSBAND WHO JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE A JUNGLE LEGEND.
PNT! PNT!
BUT A GIRL NEEDS A LITTLE ROMANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, TOO.
RIGHT, DEVIL?
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY...

GRRRRRR
EASY, BOY. IT'S JUST THE WIND.
BUT JUST IN CASE IT'S NOT...
SCOUT AHEAD.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND -
:YLMMPH!:

FELLAS, I KNOW THAT WHOLE "LIBERATING THE BANDAR PYGMIES FROM SLAVERY" THING STILL STICKS IN YOUR CRAW–
–BUT RATHER THAN LET SORE FEELINGS ESCALATE TO VIOLENCE, HOWZABOUT WE PUT ASIDE OUR PAST GRIEVANCES AND TALK THIS OUT LIKE REASONABLE PEOPLE?
SLASH
SO MUCH FOR REASONABLE...
WHUMP!
FAP!
MY BEEF IS WITH KUA.
HE'S THE MAIN EVENT.
BUT IF YOU POOR SUCKERS WANT TO BE HIS OPENING ACT?

ON WITH THE SHOW!
OLD JUNGLE SAYING: "THE PHANTOM MOVES ON CAT'S FEET."
THAK
PRETTY FAST FOR A GIANT.
BUT NOT FAST ENOU-
OOF!
WHUMP
WHAT I MEANT WAS...
CLOSE.
TOK!
BUT NO CIGAR.

KRAK
WOK
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE MONKEY BUSINESS OUT OF THE WAY...
WHERE'S KUA?
TO FIND THE UNDYING ONE, GHOST WHO WALKS, YOU MUST LOOK TO THE PAST.
I WANT HIS LOCATION. NOT A HISTORY LESSON.
SO UNLESS YOU ENJOYING GUMMING YOUR FOOD THROUGH BAMBOO, I RECOMMEND YOU GET A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC.
WHERE YOUR HEART RESIDES, THERE LIES THE SEED OF YOUR DESTRUCTION.
MY HEART...?

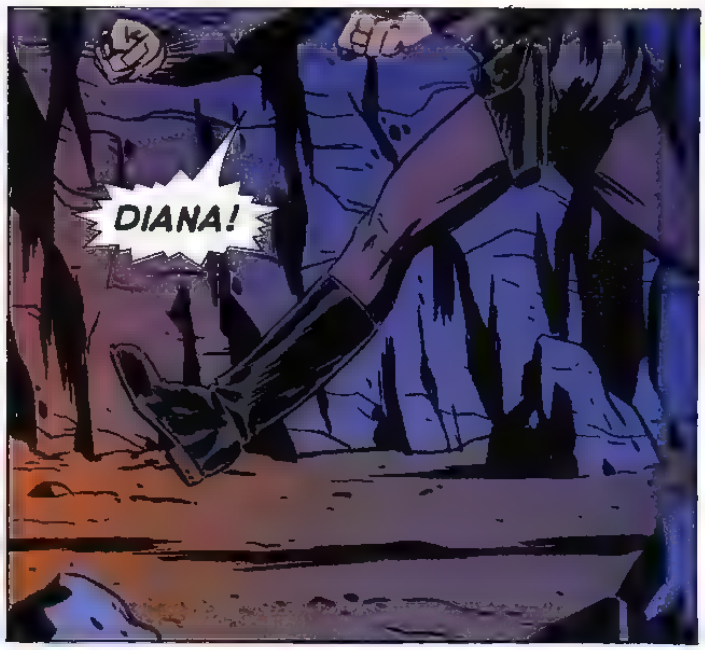
DIANA...
FWEET!
RIDE LIKE THE WIND, HERO!
HOME!

YOU... YOU'RE KUA...
AND YOU ARE THE ONE I SEEK... THE LINK THAT BINDS THE PHANTOM'S PAST TO THE FUTURE... MOTHER TO THE NEXT GENERATION...
WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO PHANTOM.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... "BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN--"
GAH!
CRACK
--IS A WOMAN YOU DO NOT WANT TO PISS OFF!
KRAK!

HFF HFF HFF
THE DEEP WOODS TRIBES BELIEVE IT IS DEATH TO BEHOLD THE PHANTOM'S FACE.*
*OLD JUNGLE SAYING.
LOOK UPON MINE, WOMAN -
- AND SEE YOURS!
FWEET!
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE DESTINY.
FWAP
ACK!

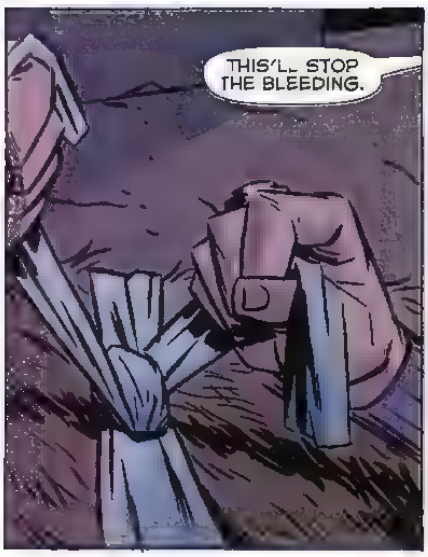
WITH YOUR DEATH, THE PHANTOM BLOODLINE DIES.
NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW.
GRRRRRR
SHHRKT
YIPE!
UHHNH
NOTHING...

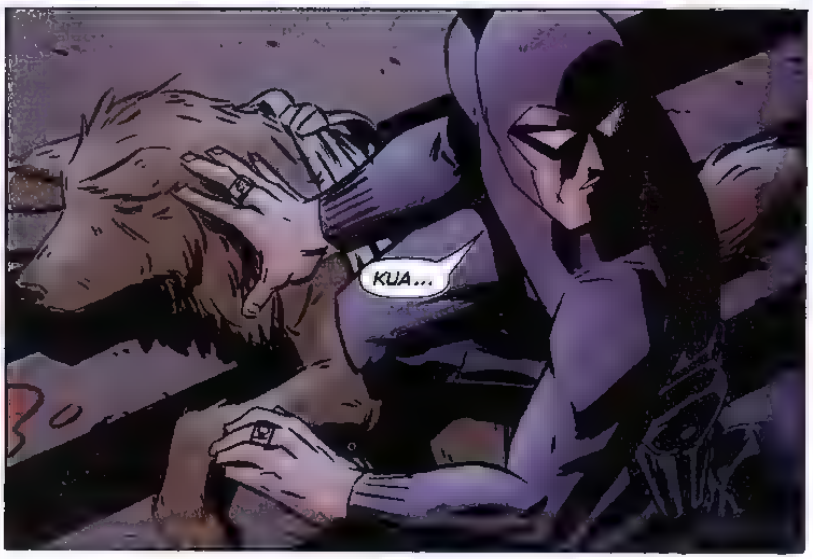
DIANA...?


DIANA!

DEVIL!

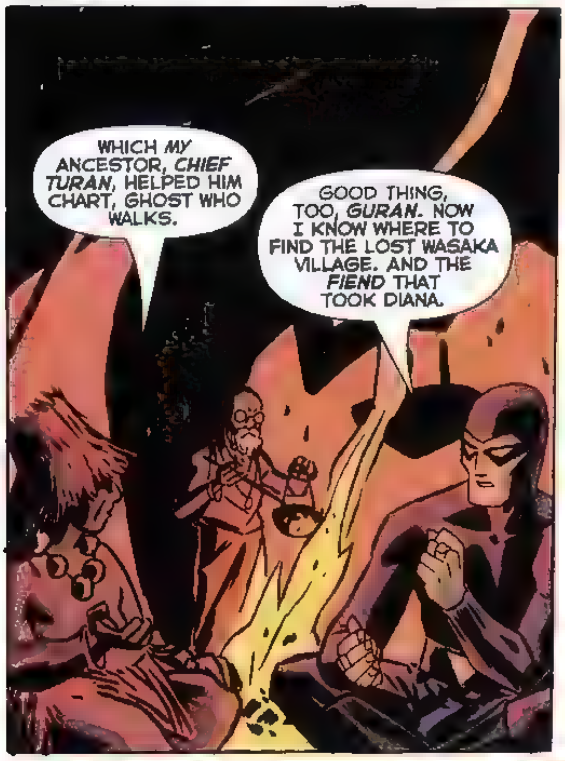
HANG ON, BOY. IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND.


THIS'LL STOP THE BLEEDING.

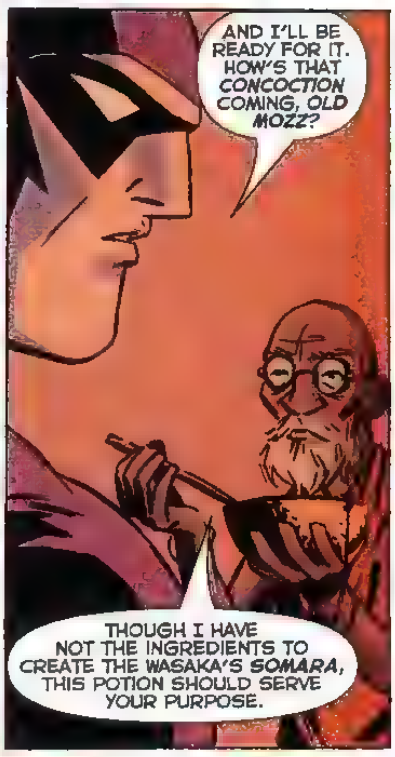

KUA...

COME ON... COME ON... WHERE ARE YOU?
CHRONICLE of the 1st Phantom
BE THERE...BE THERE...
THERE!
BENGALLA
1536
Vasaka Village

MY ANCESTOR, CHRISTOPHER WALKER, THE FIRST PHANTOM, WAS NOT ONLY A CAPTAIN IN THE BRITISH FLEET-
-HE WAS ALSO A MASTER CARTOGRAPHER. HE MADE MAPS OF EVERY PLACE HE VISITED. INCLUDING BANGALLA.


WHICH MY ANCESTOR, CHIEF TURAN, HELPED HIM CHART, GHOST WHO WALKS.
GOOD THING, TOO, GURAN. NOW I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE LOST WASAKA VILLAGE. AND THE FIEND THAT TOOK DIANA.

COULD BE A TRAP.


AND I'LL BE READY FOR IT. HOW'S THAT CONCOCTION COMING, OLD MOZZ?
THOUGH I HAVE NOT THE INGREDIENTS TO CREATE THE WASAKA'S SOMARA, THIS POTION SHOULD SERVE YOUR PURPOSE.

AND THESE SHALL HELP YOU ADMINISTER IT.
THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME AND AT LEAST A DOZEN OF THEM.
HARDLY SEEMS A FAIR FIGHT.

FOR THEM...

Kua'Eyasa!
Kua'Lamasa!
Kua!
Kua!
Kua'Eyasa!
Kua'Lamasa!
Kua!
Kua!
MISTER, DO YOU HAVE *ANY* IDEA HOW MANY ***HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS*** YOU'RE COMMITTING RIGHT NOW?
WHEN I GET BACK TO THE ***UNITED NATIONS***, THEY ARE GONNA THROW THE ***BOOK*** AT YOU FOR THIS!
I HEED NOT THE FALSE AUTHORITY OF MEN. I ANSWER TO A HIGHER POWER.
SUCH HAS BEEN THE TRADITION OF MY FAMILY FOR OVER FOUR CENTURIES...

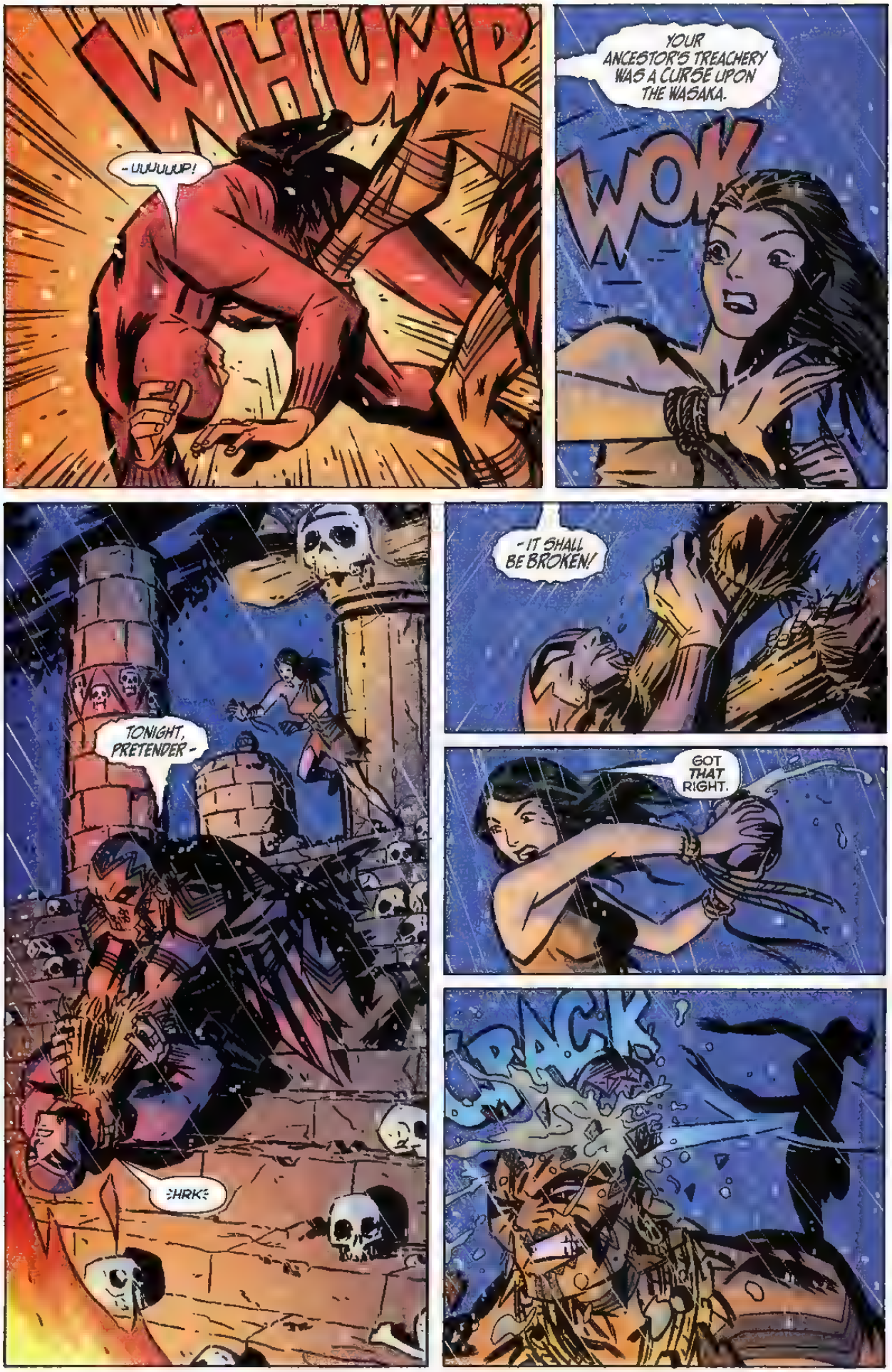
"THE PHANTOM'S LIBERATION OF THE BANDAR PYGMIES WAS TAKEN AS A SIGN THAT KUA HAD TURNED HIS BACK ON THE WASAKA."
"THE CHIEFTAIN BLAMED MY ANCESTOR, THE TRIBAL SHAMAN, AND BANISHED HIM AND HIS WIFE, HER BELLY THICK WITH CHILD, FROM THE VILLAGE FOREVER."
"THEY MADE A HOME FOR THEMSELVES ON THE COAST. BUT THE CONDITIONS WERE INHOSPITABLE. SURVIVAL WAS DIFFICULT."
"HIS BELOVED FELL PREY TO DISEASE. THE LIFE OF THEIR UNBORN CHILD ENDANGERED BY THE RAVAGES OF HER ILLNESS."
"THE FUTURE LOOKED BLEAK."
"IF NOT FOR HIS FAITH, MY ANCESTOR WOULD HAVE SUCCUMBED TO DESPAIR."
"THOUGH THE UNDYING ONE HAD FORSAKEN HIM, HE REFUSED TO ABANDON HIS GOD."
"HE SOUGHT MERCY FROM THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN SO MERCILESS TO HIM. AND TO PROVE HIS WORTHINESS OF SUCH A GIFT, HE SWORE A HALLOWED OATH..."
O', GREAT KUA! IF YOU BUT SPARE MY UNBORN CHILD, THE LIVES OF MY DESCENDANTS SHALL BE *YOURS!*

AS YOUR GUISE WAS USED TO DECEIVE OUR PEOPLE, SO SHALL IT BE USED TO AVENGE THEM IN EACH GENERATION THAT BEARS MY BLOOD!
MY SONS... AND THEIR SONS... AND THEIR SONS AFTER THEM...
"HOURS HE PRAYED. BEGGING. PLEADING. ALL THE WHILE COMMITTING HIS BODY AND BLOOD TO KUA"
"FINALLY, THE DEMON GOD ANSWERED HIS PRAYERS..."
"...AND A LEGACY WAS BORN."
"BUT NOT WITHOUT A TERRIBLE SACRIFICE..."
...A SACRIFICE WE HONOR NOW, ON THIS NIGHT.
THE BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS WAS SPILLED BECAUSE OF THE PHANTOM.
TONIGHT, HIS HANDS WILL BE STAINED WITH YOURS...

Kua'Eyasa!
Kua'Lamasa!
Kua!
Kua!
Kua!
Kua!
Kua!
Kua!
ffffft!
?!

BLAM BLAM
KSSSH
PHANTOM!
KRA KOOM
YOU'VE GOT SOME STONES, KUA.
FIRST, YOU INVADE MY HOME.
THEN, YOU THREATEN MY WIFE.
BIG MISTAKE.
THE CHARADE IS OVER, PHANTOM. MY FOREFATHERS HAVE FOLLOWED YOURS FOR GENERATIONS... WATCHED THEIR EVERY MOVE...
SO THAT'S HOW YOU KNEW THE LOCATION OF THE SKULL CAVE.
I KNOW ALL YOUR SECRETS.

YOU ARE NOT IMMORTAL.
YOU ARE JUST A MAN.
SLASH
GAH!
THE HEIR TO A LEGACY OF LIES.
LIES THAT HAVE SHAMED AND HAUNTED MY FAMILY... MY PEOPLE... FOR CENTURIES.
KRAK
UHNH!
WOK
RESCUING SKILLS A LITTLE RUSTY, HON?
JUST GETTING WARMED -


WHUMP
-UUUUUUP!
YOUR ANCESTOR'S TREACHERY WAS A CURSE UPON THE WASAKA.
WOK
TONIGHT, PRETENDER -
-IT SHALL BE BROKEN!
GOT THAT RIGHT.
SHRK
SNACK

K... K... K...
ENJOY THE TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE, SHAMAN!
ARE YOU OKAY, DIANA? DID HE HURT YOU?
PLEASE. I GAVE AS GOOD AS I GOT. STRETCH'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE MESSING WITH ME AGAIN!
O' GREAT AND MIGHTY KUA... I HAVE FAILED...
BUT I BEG YOU, DO NOT UNLEASH YOUR WRATH UPON MY UNBORN SON.
GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH TO PERSEVERE IN YOUR NAME.
GUIDE HIM AS YOU HAVE GUIDED ME, AND HE SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR WILL.
FOR HIS LIFE -
- I HUMBLY GIVE YOU MINE.
SHUNK
NO! DON'T!

SO MUCH FOR THE CURSE...
IT DIDN'T HAVE TO END LIKE THIS.
NOTHING WAS GOING TO STOP HIM. KUA WAS AS DEVOTED TO HIS FAMILY TRADITION -
AS I AM TO MINE.
I FOLLOWED IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS AND BECAME THE PHANTOM WHEN HE DIED, DIANA.
WHEN I'M GONE, OUR CHILDREN WILL DO THE SAME. AND SO WILL THEIR CHILDREN.
BUT SO WILL KUA'S...
THE FUTURE ISN'T SET IN STONE, KIT.
YOUR SECRETS ARE STILL SAFE.
YEAH -

"-FOR NOW..."
PATIENT'S DOWN! FULL CARDIAC ARREST!
TEN BLADE! STAT!
IF WE DON'T C-SECTION THIS BABY RIGHT NOW, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE BOTH OF THEM!
YES, DOCTOR!
COME ON, LITTLE ONE... YOU CAN DO THIS... COME ON...
WAIT! I'VE GOT IT! THE BABY'S COMING OUT!
PULSE IS STABLE... NO ARRHYTHMIA... BREATHING IS REGULAR...
IT'S GONNA MAKE IT!

WE DID ALL WE COULD FOR THE MOTHER. I'M SORRY.
SHE IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. ONLY THE *INFANT* MATTERS.
HERE... THIS SHOULD COVER YOUR *FEE*...
THE CHILD IS *HEALTHY*?
PERFECTLY.
KUA BE PRAISED. WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, HE SHALL *AVENGE* HIS FATHER AND CARRY ON THE *TRADITION* OF HIS ANCESTORS.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MISTER. BUT THAT'S *NOT* A HE.
IT'S A *GIRL*.
KRA-KOOM
MAWITAAN HOSPITAL
THE END

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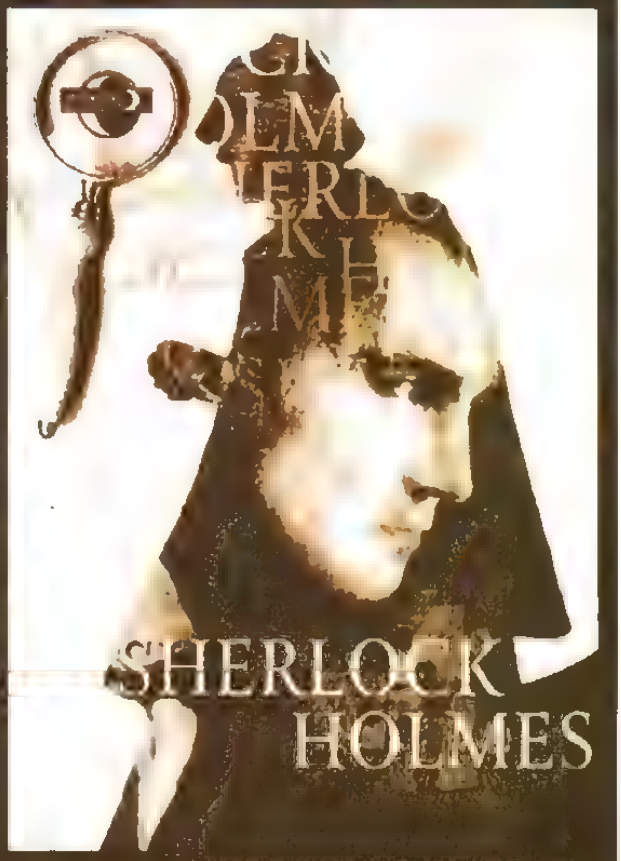

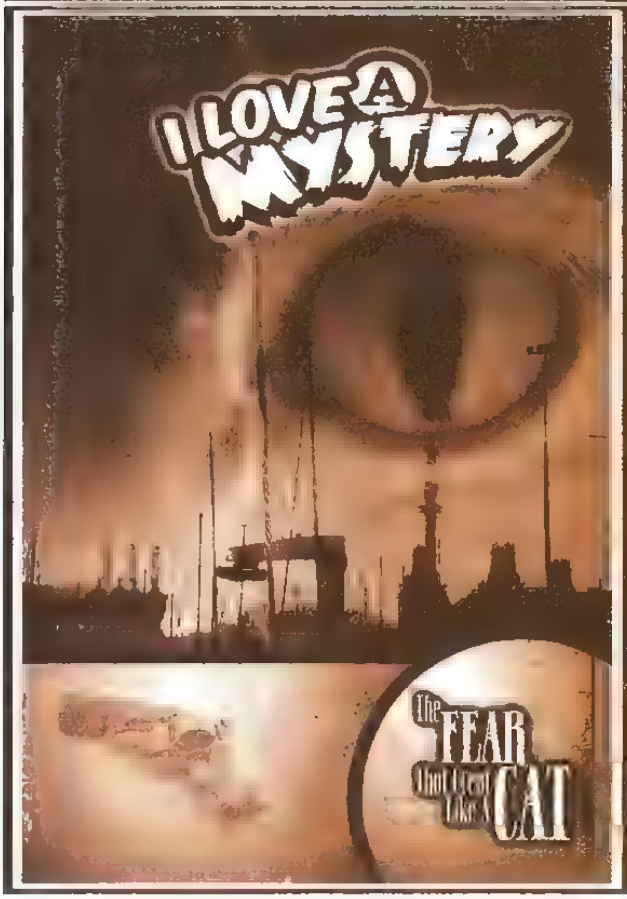

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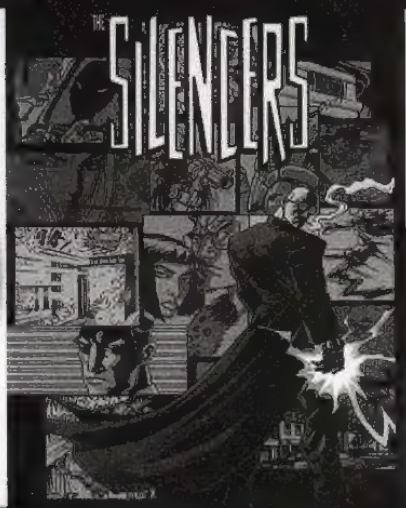

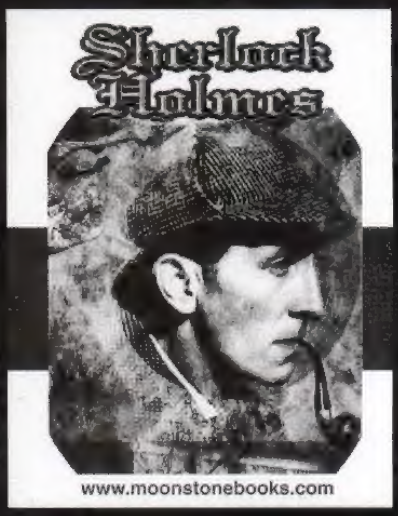

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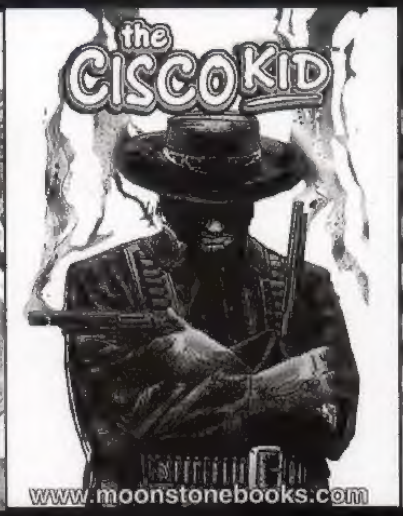

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